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ABSTRACT

This guide for migrant farmworker youth was based on the experiences of the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center's Project CHOICE (Comprehensive Help on Individualized Career Education) whose main thrust was to work with migrant out-of-school youth to encourage and assist them in continuing their education. The larger portion of YOURS addresses students and describes those programs most utilized by CHOICE youth. Two cartoon characters, Bubba and Roberto, engage in dialogue centering around Bubba's decision to drop out of school and Roberto's arguments on why and how Bubba should finish his schooling. Topics covered include: reasons to drop out and reasons not to drop out, the GED (General Education Development) test, Job Corps, the FFRTC (Florida Farmworkers Residential Training Center), HEP (High School Equivalency Program) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program), and the Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children. The guide's parent portion features Roberto's father and Bubba's mother whose dialogue addresses what parents can do to help to instill an appreciation for education in their children and to solve their children's school problems. Florida's Learn and Earn Program is also discussed as an alternative to dropping out. Sources for information on specific programs are provided. (BRR)

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YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you!

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES and UMPTEEN REASONS for SCHOOL!

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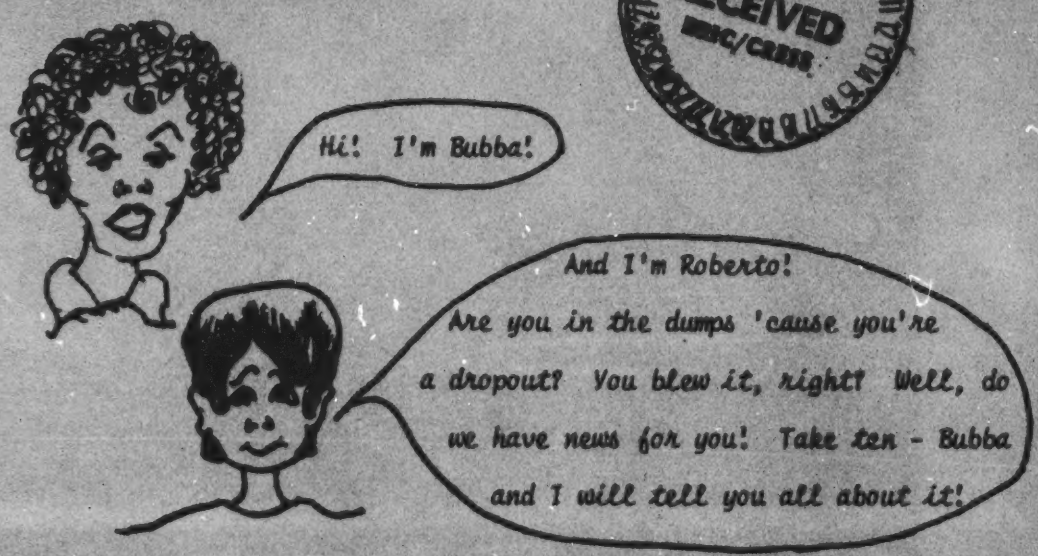
Hi! I'm Bubba!
And I'm Roberto!
Are you in the dumps 'cause you're a dropout? You blew it, right? Well, do we have news for you! Take ten - Bubba and I will tell you all about it!

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YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you! YOURS is for you!

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Project CHOICE

Comprenensive Help on Individualized Career Education

YOURS

Youth Opportunities and Umpteen Reasons for School

A guidebook for out-of-school youth and their parents focusing on alternative secondary, post-secondary programs and financial assistance.

by

Sylvia Kelly

assisted by

Donna Nye

1982

Funded by the N.Y.S. Department of Labor, CETA Operations Division

BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center
Holcomb Building, Room 210-211
Geneseo, New York 14454

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INTRODUCTION

YOURS, a guide for migrant farmworker youth, has been prepared from the experiences of the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center's Project CHOICE (Comprehensive Help on Individualized Career Education) funded by the New York State Department of Labor's CETA Operations Division, Special Projects.

The main thrust of Project CHOICE was to work with migrant out-of-school youth to encourage and assist them in continuing their education. Because the youth worked in the fields during the day, counseling and career exploration sessions were held evenings in the migrant camps and field trips to job sites took place on weekends.

REAL TALK, the project's newsletter, served as a vehicle year-round for the youth to share their aspirations, experiences and creative writing and for Project CHOICE staff to provide information on various careers, role models and educational/vocational programs.

In addition to REAL TALK, the youth received, no matter where they traveled, continuous service via collect calls they could make to CHOICE staff and follow-up communication by staff with home-base agencies helped with home-base program enrollment and counseling.

YOURS describes those programs most utilized by CHOICE youth. Community colleges, specialized vocational training programs and available local resources were also utilized, depending upon the youth's interests and potential.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special acknowledgement is extended to Mr. Virgil Hodges, New York State Department of Labor Deputy Industrial Commissioner and to Ms. Anne Bryant and Ms. Carolyn Walker, Account Executives of the CETA Operations Division, Special Projects section, who recognized the need and provided the resources and guidance for Project CHOICE.

On the programmatic side, Project CHOICE could not have been possible without the commitment to migrant youth of Mona Smith DeMay, original Coordinator of Project CHOICE, and Robert Lynch, Programs Liaison of the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center.

Present Coordinator, Sylvia Kelly, assisted by Donna Nye, SUNY Alfred intern, developed YOURS with technical assistance from typist Sharon Buck and REAL TALK editor, Jean Meekin.

Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. Charles Holowach, District Superintendent, Mr. Bruno Rodgers, Assistant District Superintendent and Carol Garey, Project CHOICE evaluator, of the Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming BOCES for their assistance and support.

Gloria Mattera, Director
BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center

Hey, Bubba - where you goin'? You'll be late for school, man!
Say what? School!? Ah, Roberto - that stuff's for fools! I'm goin' to play me some pool!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

1. ☐ ROBERTO IS UPSIDE DOWN.

2. ☐ BUBBA IS UPSIDE DOWN.

3. ☐ ROBERTO HAS NO NOSE.

4. ☐ BUBBA IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.

RIGHT!! The answer is 4: Bubba is making a BIG mistake.

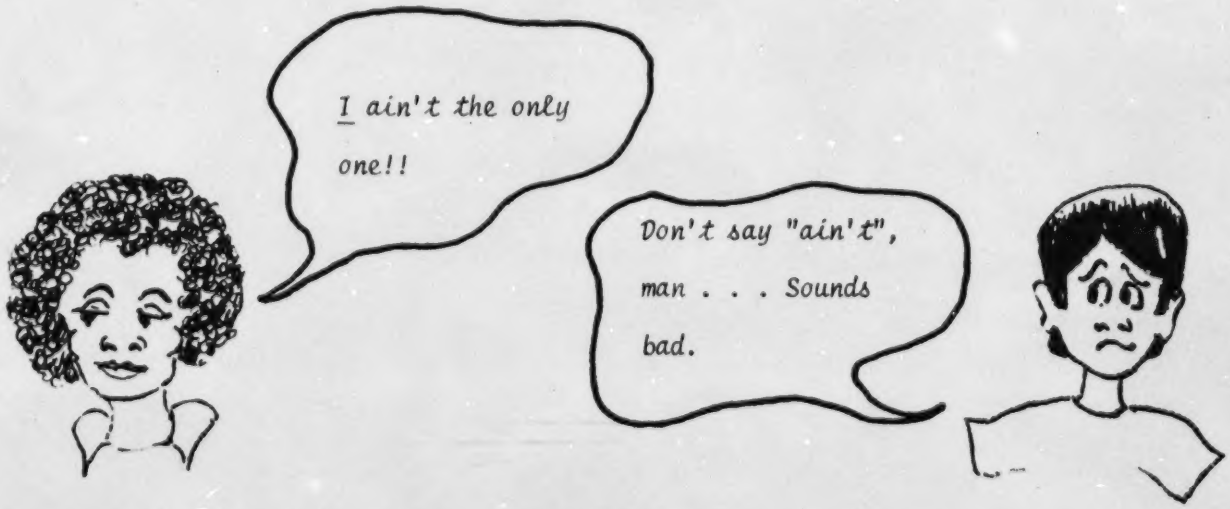
9 out of 10

migrant teens do it !

It's a mistake plenty of teens make, and did you know . . . there are ways to avoid making that mistake. Don't do it!

Do what ?

Don't make the same mistake Bubba is making - too many teens DROP OUT of school. Often they only have 1 or 2 years left to finish.



Why drop out ?

I'll tell you why:

I'm too far behind now. Bein' on the season made me miss too much time every fall. I can't catch up.

And, you know - I need the money! My folks're havin' hard times an' I want to get some fine clothes! An' I need a set of wheels.

Besides, there's this one teacher, see . . . We just don't get along. Not at ALL!

Oh man . . . I can't take all those RULES!
Rules and regulations; those rules'll kill you!!

All my friends quit. They're out havin' a good time. Partyin',. . . you know.

An' I don't like gettin' up so early every morning! EVERY day! Wow!

I like to be doin' something . . . Hate to just sit! I want to be learnin' something that'll help me out later, like help me on a job.

. . But . .

There are some reasons not to drop out:

You'll have a better chance of getting a good job if you finish high school. Most employers want a high school graduate for all but the lowest-paying jobs.

That's right, Bubba! My boss told me when I get my diploma I get a raise. That's automatic.

Isn't it better to wait 1 or 2 more years for the fine clothes? With that diploma, you'll have a better chance at a good job, so you can keep on having nice things.

It is hard to keep up with your classes when you miss a month or more every fall.

But I got a tutor to help me catch up. Some schools will do that.

I know who you mean by "this one teacher", Bubba. But he's not so bad if you talk to him.

Learning to get along with others is an important skill, on the job as well as in school.

That teacher's just trying to get you to work . . . And follow the rules.

There are always rules. Do's and don't's are an important part of any job. Sometimes there are rules about how you dress, or there are safety regulations, or rules that help you complete a task properly. A good worker must obey certain rules.

Only job you can get without rules is workin' for yourself. Then YOU'll be tellin' somebody else the rules. You can't just party, Bubba.

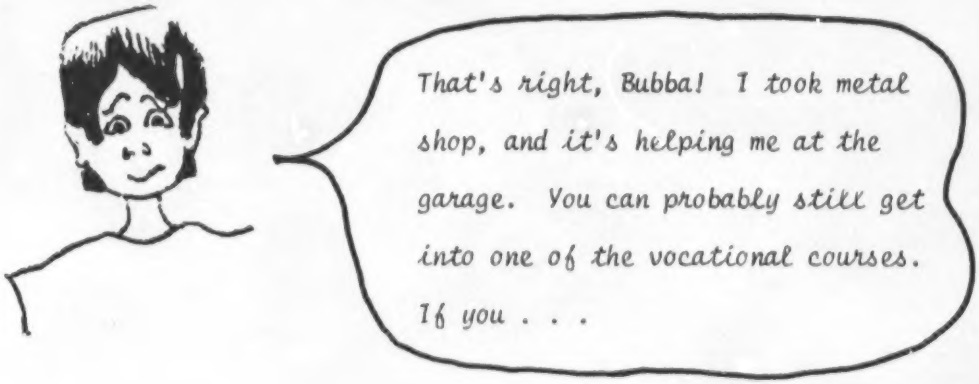
It takes money to do nothing but "party". People who don't finish high school don't make as much money as those who do.

You know Clinton and Juan been lookin' for work for three weeks now. They can't find it. And they don't have any bucks, at all!

Plus, they get up at FIVE THIRTY, man, every day, to get there first at the employment office!

The majority of jobs require workers to be at work by eight or nine o'clock in the morning, unless they work evening shifts. You will always have time schedules to meet.

Most schools have some vocational training programs you can take while you are in school. They give you credit for learning job skills.


That's right, Bubba! I took metal shop, and it's helping me at the garage. You can probably still get into one of the vocational courses. If you . . .

HOW CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR FUTURE ?

1. ☐ BUY A LOTTERY TICKET AND WIN A MILLION DOLLARS.

2. ☐ GAIN A THOUSAND POUNDS AND JOIN A CIRCUS.

3. ☐ GET RUN OVER BY TWO SEMI'S.

4. ☐ RE-ENROLL IN A PROGRAM TO FINISH YOUR SCHOOLING.

Right! The answer is 4: Re-enroll in a program to finish your schooling.

I don't want to go back to school. Can't I get my diploma without going back? And I have to live at home until I get a job.

If you want to live at home . . .

there's the GED test:

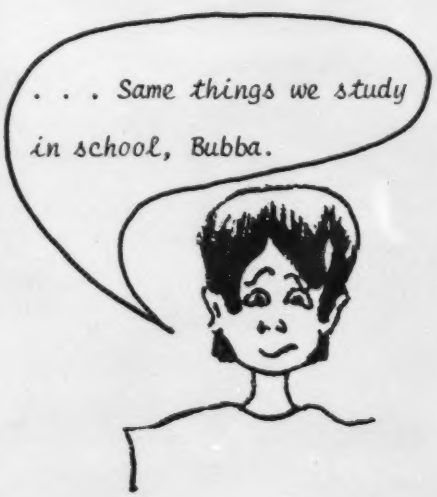
(General Education Development)

This is a way for young people who have left high school to earn their high school equivalency diploma by studying for and passing the GED test. Equivalency means "equal to" or "the same as".

The test has five parts and each must be passed.

The five parts are:

1) writing
2) social studies
3) science
4) reading
5) mathematics



. . . Same things we study in school, Bubba.

Oh NO! I'll need help! Where can I get it?

In your community there is probably a special program that provides instruction in each of the five areas of the test. Many classes are in the evening. Sometimes they are held at the high school or local college. Usually, there is no cost. You can even buy your own books so you can study on your own.

Where can I find out more?

To get more information about the GED program:

1) call or visit your county migrant office,
2) call or visit the high school in your community and talk with the principal or the guidance counselor, or
3) call or write the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center / Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454. (Phone: 716/245-5681)

I don't really want to live at home, but I got to get some money to be on my own. I need to learn something that'll help me get a good job, you know?

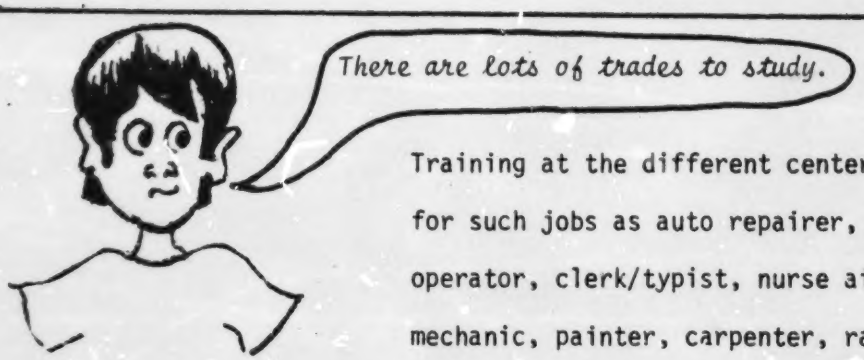
OK, Bubba; you know what? There are some programs where you can live at the school, finish your high school, and learn a trade at the same time!

There's JOB CORPS:

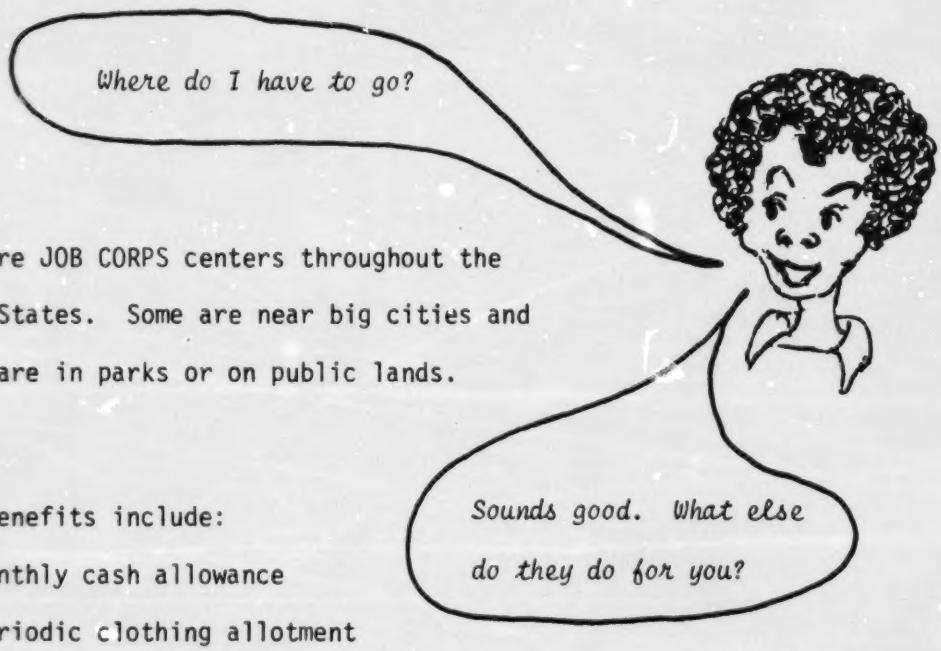
JOB CORPS is a live-in vocational/educational program that betters your chances for a good job. You can learn a trade and also study for your high school equivalency diploma.

To be eligible for JOB CORPS, you must:

1) be 16 but not yet 22
2) be a resident of the United States
3) be a school dropout or a student unable to benefit from continued schooling, or a high school graduate meeting other eligibility requirements
4) come from a low-income family
5) need vocational/educational training
6) express an interest in joining JOB CORPS
7) have the physical health and mental ability to benefit from the program
8) not have a history of serious criminal or anti-social behavior



Training at the different centers is provided for such jobs as auto repairer, equipment operator, clerk/typist, nurse aide, auto mechanic, painter, carpenter, radio/television repairman and cook.



There are JOB CORPS centers throughout the United States. Some are near big cities and others are in parks or on public lands.

Other benefits include:

1) a monthly cash allowance
2) a periodic clothing allotment
3) a readjustment allowance set aside for each month spent at the center (You must stay at least six months to receive this allowance.)
4) sports, movies, cultural events, hobbies, recreational activities, field trips and shopping trips
5) medical and dental services
6) aid in finding a job, advanced vocational school or college after JOB CORPS training
7) paid transportation to the appropriate center. Every six months JOB CORPS will pay for one round trip visit home

It doesn't take too long, either.

A skill is usually learned in six months, but you can stay up to two years to continue working on a trade and/or high school equivalency diploma.

What do I have to do?

A Corpsman has to work hard at his/her training, attend classes and follow JOB CORPS rules.

RULES again? I guess there's always gonna be rules! How do I find out how to apply?

Contact your nearest State Employment Office, or call or write the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo New York 14454. (phone: 716/245-5681)

I don't want to go where no one knows about migrants. Are there any just for us?

There sure are! There's Florida Farmworkers Residential Training Center (FFRTC) and High School Equivalency Program (HEP); both of them are just for migrants, and you "earn while you learn"!

There's the FFRTC: (Florida Farmworkers Residental Training Center)

This is a way to get your GED and learn a trade at the same time. You live in a dormitory. A bus takes you to Central Florida Community College each day, where you work on your high school equivalency and study a trade.

What are the trades I could study?

The trades are welding, air conditioning, auto body repair, auto mechanics, carpentry, secretarial skills, cosmetology, hospital clerk, masonry and radio-TV repair.

Am I eligible?

You must be between 18 and 22 and be a farmworker.

And it's not expensive, or real long!

It takes 7 months and there is no charge. You receive spending money once a month and meals three times a day. You can also use the college gym and other recreational programs.

That sounds terrific!

For more information, contact the Florida Farmworkers Residential Training Center, 702 South West Fifth Street, Ocala, Florida 32670 or the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454 (phone: 716/245-5681)

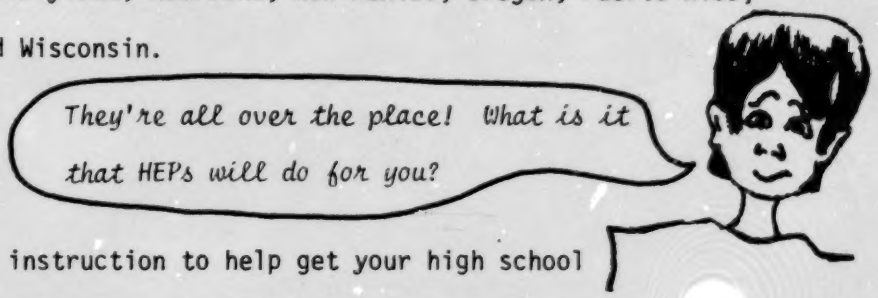
. . . If I stay right here in Ocala.

But what programs do they have in other parts of the country?

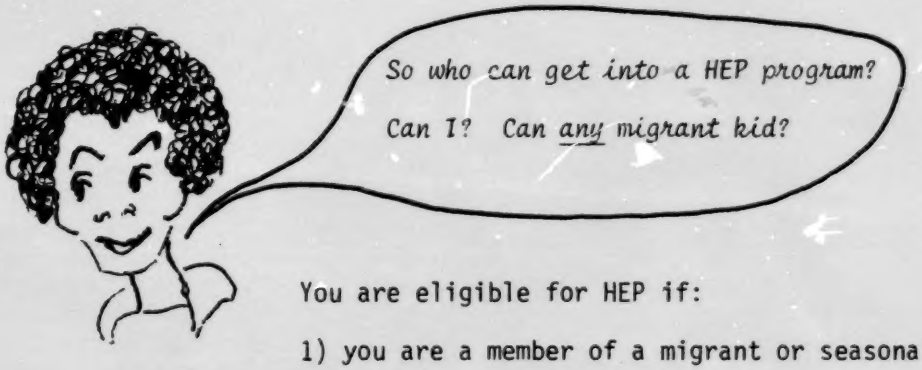
. . . Well . . .

There's HEP:
(High School Equivalency Program)

HEP (High School Equivalency Program) helps to educate young people and to help them find jobs. HEP has 14 locations at colleges and universities in: California, Florida, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.



HEP gives you individual instruction to help get your high school equivalency diploma; room and board at a university; an allowance of $10 a week for personal expenses; the personal attention of a HEP counselor; and all the privileges that come with living on a university campus! You can earn your degree in as little as three months, or you can take longer - as long as you need to get the equivalency diploma!



You are eligible for HEP if:

1) you are a member of a migrant or seasonal farmworker family
2) you are between the ages of 17 and 24 and not married
3) you are a high school dropout
4) you are a United States resident
5) your family falls within the poverty level
6) you are willing to commit yourself to a complete program of serious study and job preparation.

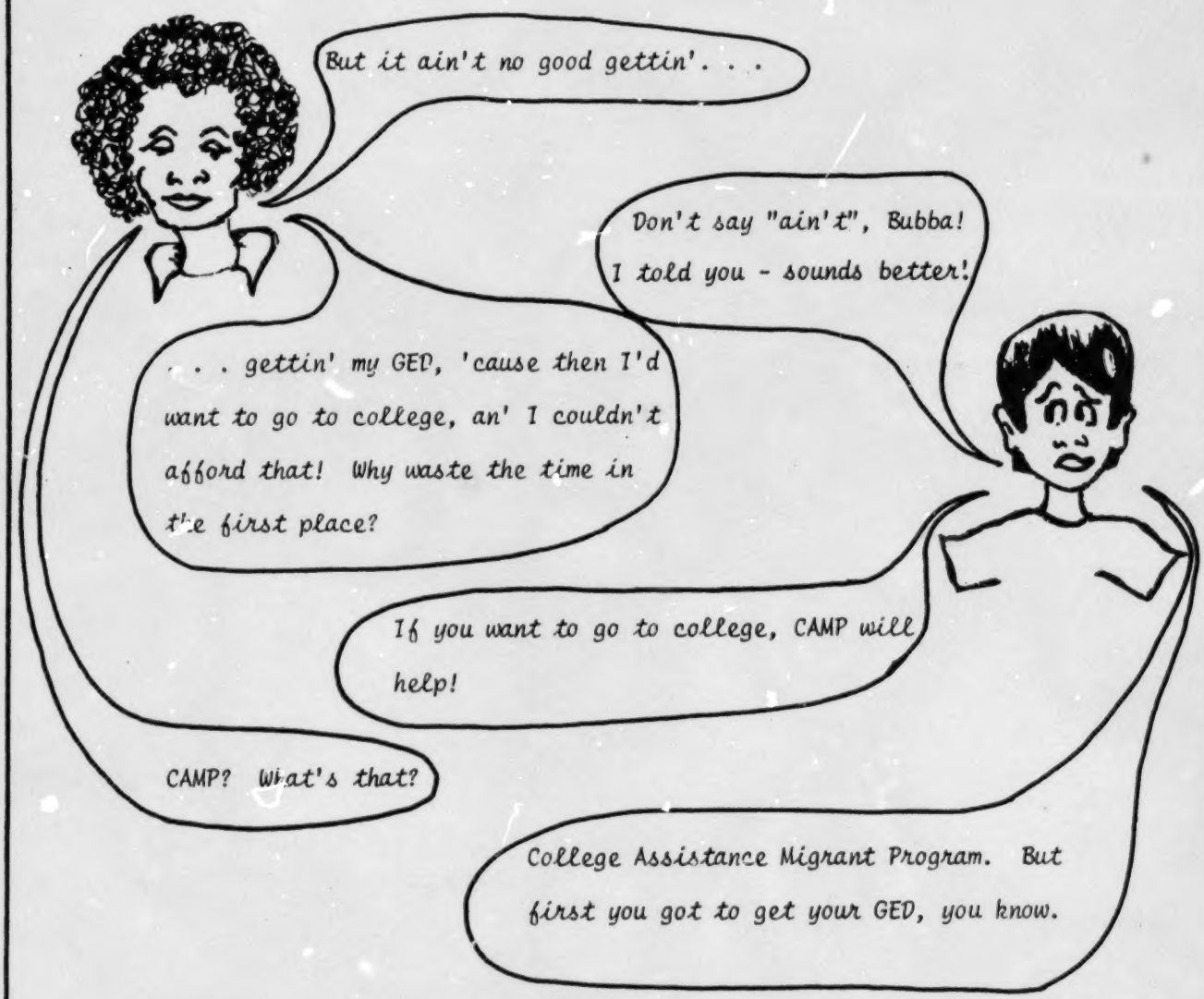
For more information on a HEP program near you, contact:

Dr. Lloyd Rahmind, Room 312 Merrick Building, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124 (phone: 305/284-2566),

Ms. Betty J. Soldwedel, P.O. Box 17074, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida 32216 (phone: 904/646-2520,

Mr. Joseph Kelly, 5530 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015 (phone: 301/654-2550), or

the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454 (phone: 716/245-5681).

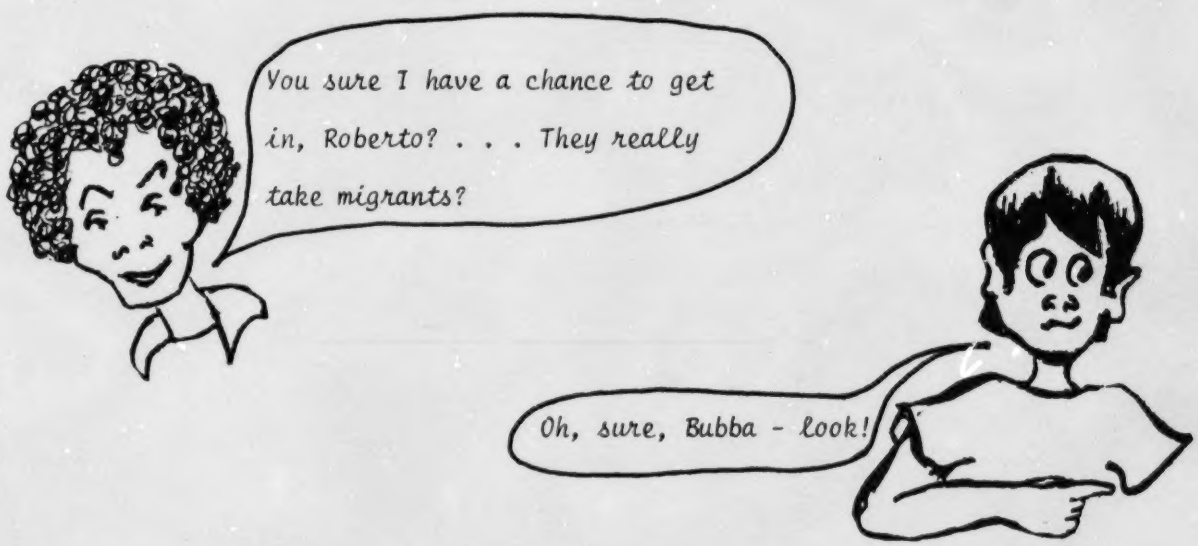

But it ain't no good gettin'. . .
Don't say "ain't", Bubba! I told you - sounds better!
. . . gettin' my GED, 'cause then I'd want to go to college, an' I couldn't afford that! Why waste the time in the first place?
If you want to go to college, CAMP will help!
CAMP? What's that?
College Assistance Migrant Program. But first you got to get your GED, you know.

CAMP:

(College Assistance Migrant Program)

If you have always wanted to attend college, but couldn't afford it, CAMP may be the answer! CAMP provides full financial assistance to college freshmen - tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and a monthly living allowance. In addition, the colleges also provide special tutoring and counseling services for you, and it will help you get financial assistance for your last three years of college!

There are five colleges in the United States that have a College Assistance Migrant Program; three in California and two in Texas.



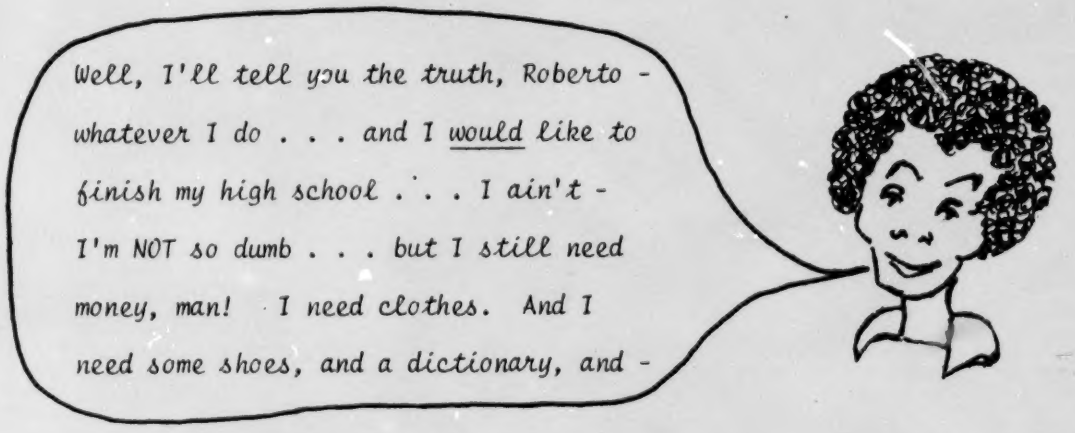
You are eligible for CAMP if;

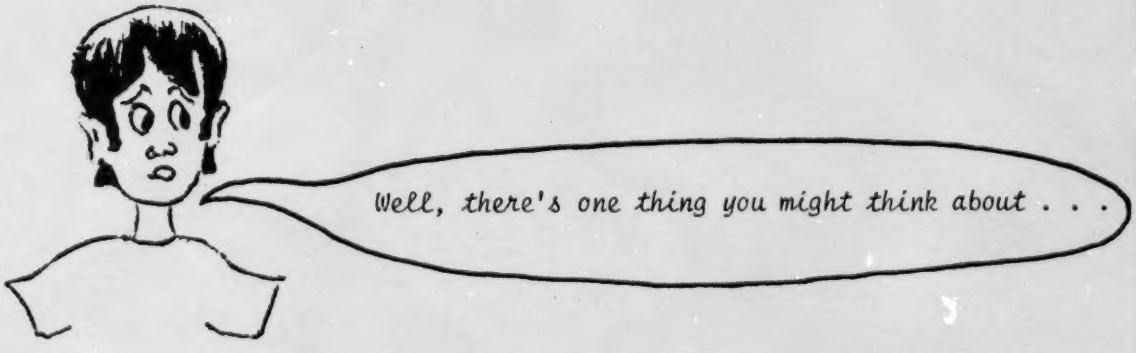
1) you are a legal resident of the United States
2) you are a member of a seasonal or migrant farmworker family
3) you have graduated from high school, HEP, or passed the GED
4) your family's income falls within the poverty level
5) you meet the admissions requirements of the college you wish to attend.

For more information on CAMP, contact:

Dr. Roberto Perez, St. Edward's University, Inc., 3001 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78704 (phone: 512/444-2621), or

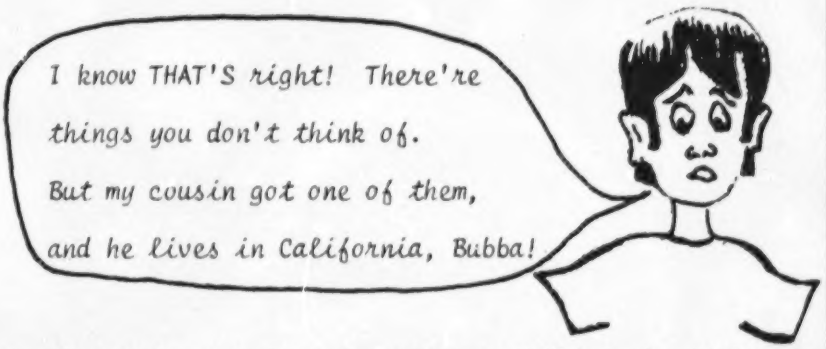
the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454 (phone: 716/245-5681).


Well, I'll tell you the truth, Roberto - whatever I do . . . and I would like to finish my high school . . . I ain't - I'm NOT so dumb . . . but I still need money, man! I need clothes. And I need some shoes, and a dictionary, and -

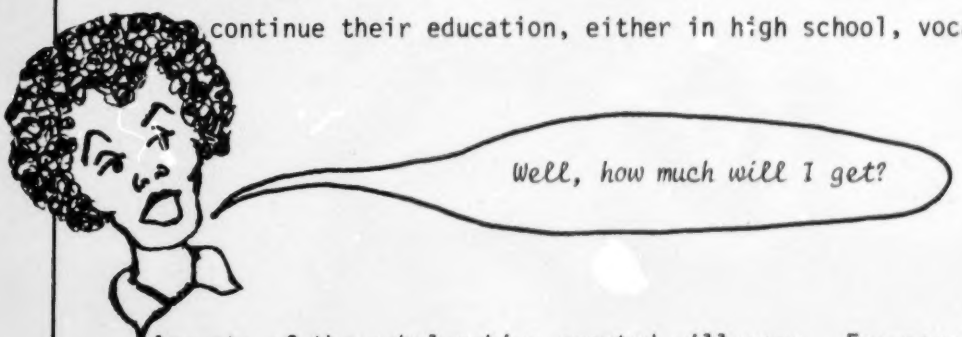


One source of money is the JOSEPH MATTERA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND for Migrant Children

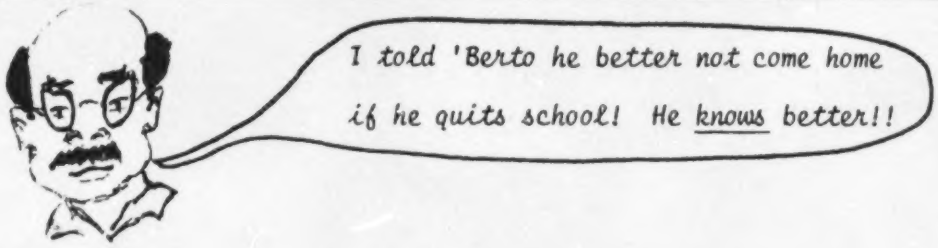
If you're thinking about going back to high school to get your diploma, or entering a program where you would work toward getting your GED, going to a trade or vocational school, or even going on to college, you may be wondering where to find money. There are many costs that may not be covered by tuition assistance programs or loans. Books, transportation, and clothing may add up to more than you planned.



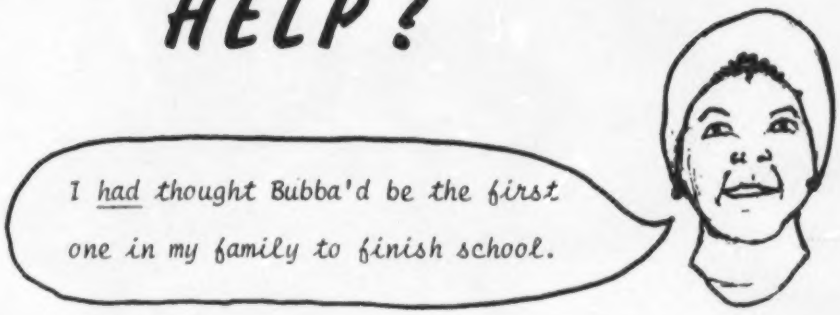
The Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children is designed to help with educational expenses for eligible migrant youth who want to continue their education, either in high school, vocational school or college.



Amounts of the scholarships granted will vary. For more information, write the Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children, BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454. (phone: 716/245-5681)



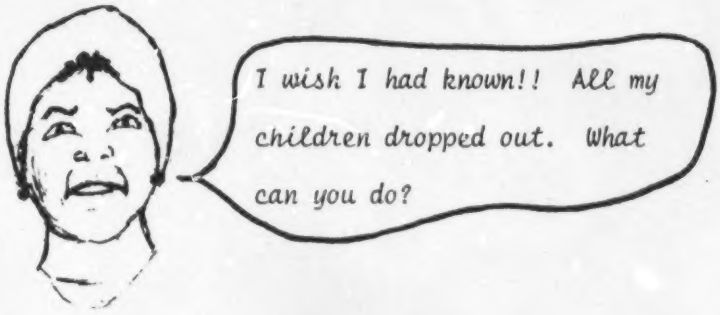
HOW CAN YOUR DAD OR MAMA HELP?



1. ☐ THEY COULD WRITE A NOTE SAYING YOU WERE TOO BUSY WATCHING TV TO GO TO SCHOOL.
2. ☐ THEY COULD WRAP YOU IN MUD TO "TAKE THE STING OUT" OF LEARNING.
3. ☐ THEY COULD PUT YOUR BOOKS THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDER TO HELP YOU DIGEST THE INFORMATION.
4. ☐ THEY COULD WORK WITH THE SCHOOL AND YOUR TEACHERS TO HELP FIND THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU.

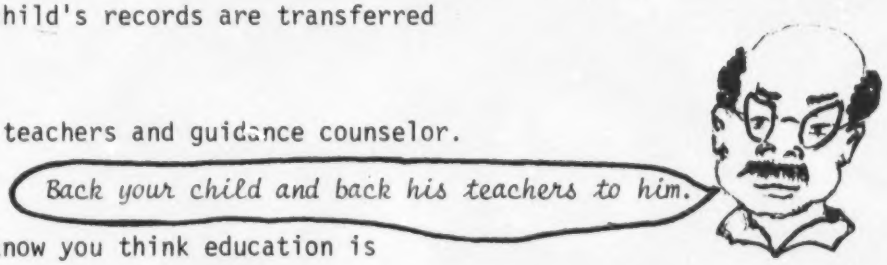
RIGHT! The answer is 4: They could work with the school and your teachers to find the best program for you!

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?



FROM DAY TO DAY.

1) Visit the school, regularly.
2) Make sure your child's records are transferred when you move.
3) Get to know the teachers and guidance counselor.



4) Let your child know you think education is important!
5) Encourage your child to do his/her homework.
6) If your child gets into trouble, help him/her all that you can, but let him know that he is responsible for his actions, and must take the consequences.
7) DO NOT "run down" his teachers in front of him. Let him know you have respect for the job a teacher does. It will help him to have respect.
8) Try to meet with other parents who are migrant, or who share the same concerns you do. There is strength in numbers.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A PROBLEM.

IF THE PROBLEM IS PHYSICAL, be sure the school officials, the nurse and teachers understand all about his/her problem.

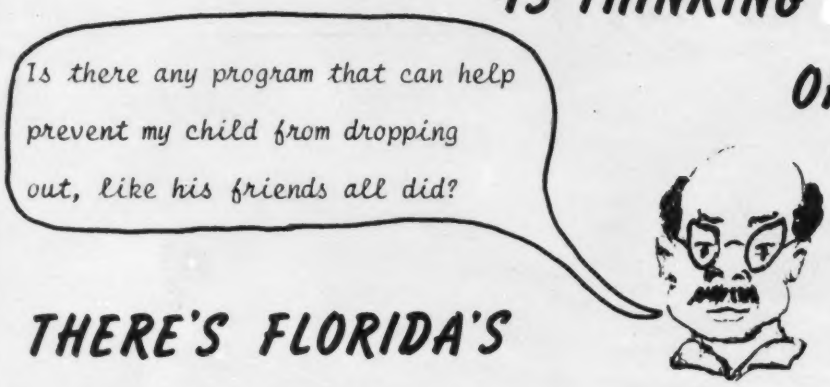
- Many children have allergies. The school nurse must be told this. She will alert the teachers.
- If your child takes medicine, the nurse must know this, for your child's sake.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH OTHER CHILDREN, your first step is to make the teacher, the principal, or the guidance counselor aware of the problem.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH ONE OF THE TEACHERS, your first step is to talk with that teacher, or the guidance counselor.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE SCHOOL WORK, and you can't help, contact his/her teacher or guidance counselor. There may be extra help available in that subject.

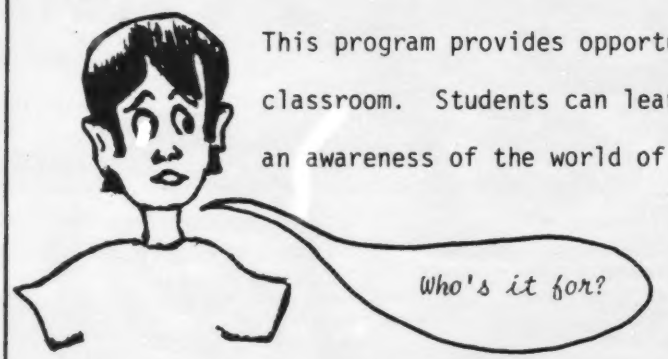
IF YOUR CHILD IS THINKING OF DROPPING OUT.



THERE'S FLORIDA'S

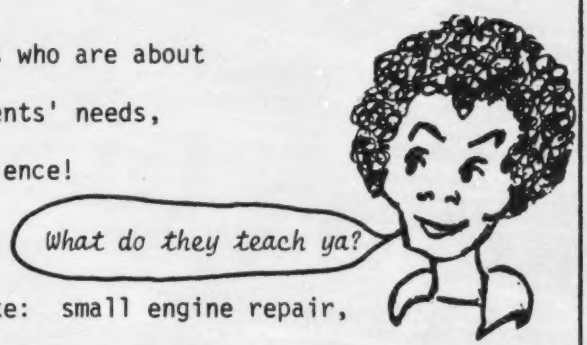
LEARN & EARN

PROGRAM:



This program provides opportunities not found in the regular classroom. Students can learn vocational skills, and develop an awareness of the world of work and a variety of careers.

This program is especially for migrant students who are about to drop out. It is geared for individual students' needs, and the students are paid for their work experience!

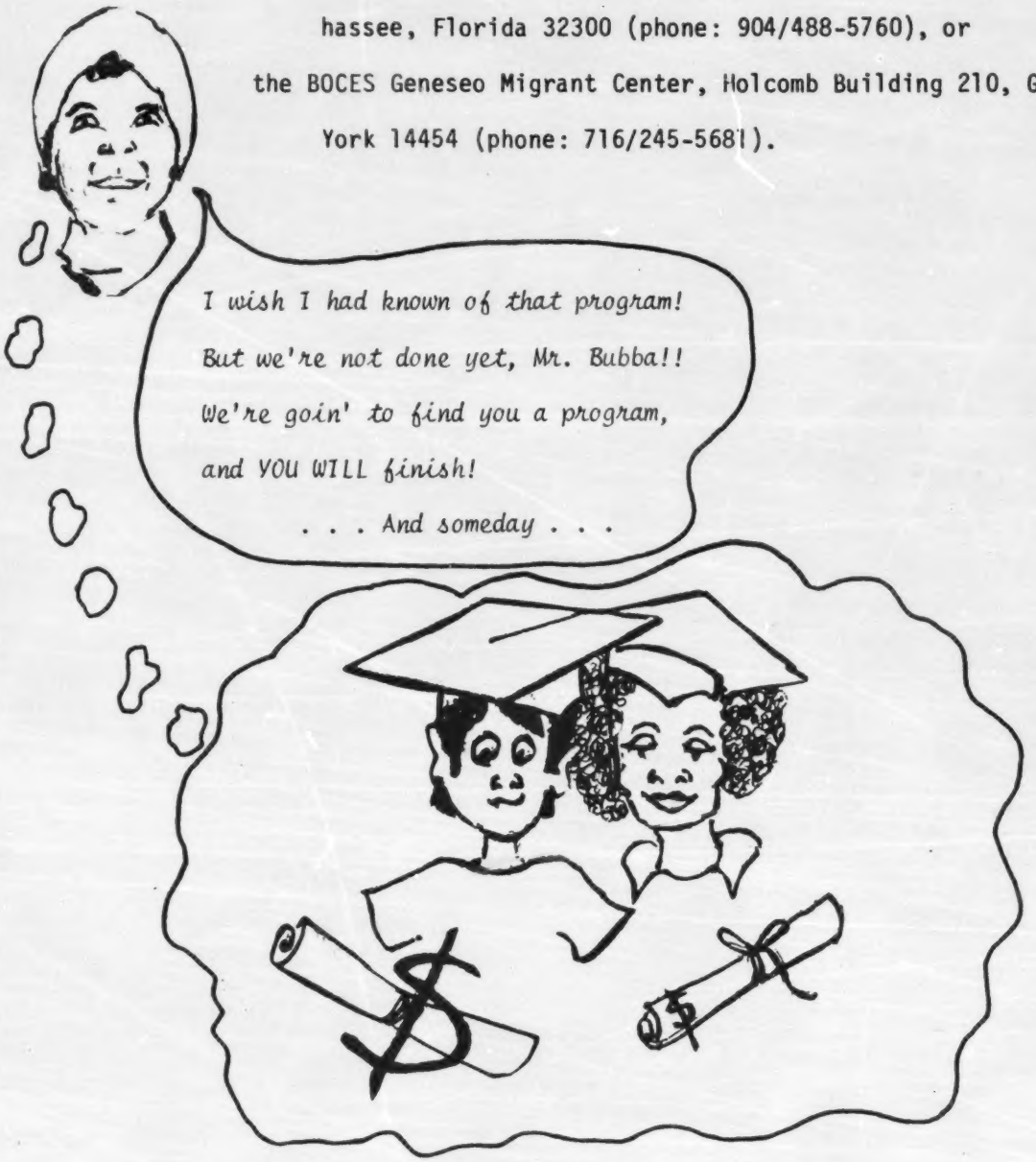


The job skills that are taught are in areas like: small engine repair, machine engine repair, typing and general office practices, retail food work, hotel/motel management and housekeeping and nursing skills.

For further information about Florida's Learn and Earn Program, contact:

Mr. Jack Waters, Administrator, Florida Migratory Child Compensatory Program, Florida Department of Education, Knott Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32300 (phone: 904/488-5760), or

the BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center, Holcomb Building 210, Geneseo, New York 14454 (phone: 716/245-5681).


I wish I had known of that program!
But we're not done yet, Mr. Bubba!!
We're goin' to find you a program,
and YOU WILL finish!
. . . And someday . . .

THE DREAM WILL COME TRUE!